

For Consideration
Comments by the United States of America on Texts Submitted for Consideration
International Animal Health Code Committee
January 2002 Report

Appendix 3.6.5 Anthrax Bacterium and Spore Destruction Procedures

The United States would like the Animal Health Code Commission to check the data and numbers of Articles 3.6.5.3 and 3.6.5.4

Under Article 3.6.5.3, Section 1, Disinfection, paragraph a), and Article 3.6.5.4, Section 1, Disinfection, paragraph b) the percentage formalin should be specified. If the percentage is 37%, then the volume specified in Section 1, paragraph a) of Article 3.6.5.3, and Section 1), paragraph b) of Article 3.6.5.4 should be 35 ml, not 250 ml.

It is unclear where the 250 ml value came from. If so-called "10% neutral buffered formalin" is the type of formalin that is being referred to in these Articles, then such formalin is really a 3.7 % formaldehyde solution, requiring 350 ml. Some manufacturers put up aqueous formaldehyde as a 40% solution (essentially saturated) in which case a 1:10 dilution would be 4%, requiring 250 ml. Thus the importance of clarifying and specifying the type and percentage of formalin solution used to ensure that the recommended disinfection procedure is properly applied.